

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Flintville Elementary School
37 Flintville School Road
Flintville TN 37335



Construction Workers Catch the Bobcat Recycling Disease!

The Member

In the past, Flintville was a junior high of approximately 325 students in grades 7-9. During school year 2001-02, Flintville is an 8th and 9th grade school of 191 students with a faculty of 15 teachers. We are currently building a new school, opening in phases to our student body. The school year 2002-2003 will involve great changes with our student body becoming a K-8 elementary school. Our philosophy on education has always been to motivate, inspire, and attain academic, athletic and moral excellence from students and staff. Productive, positive-thinking and compassionate American citizens have been the end result of a curriculum that doesn't overlook the individual in its efforts to teach the group. Our C.L.E.A.N. Force (Citizens for Lincoln Environment and Neighborhoods) plays a large role in our school and community.

The Story

The construction of a new facility comes with tons of cardboard packaging from new air conditioners, furniture and building supplies, as well as scrap sheet metal, rebar, ductwork, etc. Where would all this leftover material go? Of course, it would go straight into a dumpster and, at \$500 per 30 cubic yards, be hauled away to the nearest landfill! Our goal was to save a minimum of 90 cubic yards of landfill space.

The Success

To succeed at recycling construction waste we needed the help of many people who ordinarily may not have recycled. Our students and faculty are accustomed to seeing blue recycle bins in all the rooms, and it is second nature for them to sort white paper from colored, break down cardboard, and save plastics and aluminum cans for recycling. Convincing adult men in hard hats to do the same would be our challenge!

However, because the men observed our students' good example, recycling has become a daily routine for the construction workers. Mr. Carl Hobbs, supervisor from Rock City Construction, Inc., has engaged the cooperation of other companies to ensure the success of the project. Blalock Plumbing, Electrical & HVAC, Collegedale Casework, James Carpet, Osburn Hessey, W. W. Plumbing, Lovell's Masonry, and Hickory Steel are among the other companies participating.

To transport the cardboard from school to the recycle center 20 miles away, the services of Mr. Johnny Edwards were volunteered by his wife! Approximately 500 pounds of cardboard could be transported in one trip with an average of two loads a week from October to March being recycled. Mr. Thomas Dempsey, another volunteer, removed the scrap sheet metal, ductwork, trusses, beam scraps and rebar. To date, he has recycled about 50,000 pounds!



The Pollution Prevented

We have saved the construction companies approximately \$1,500 on cleanup fees and spared our landfill of at least 90 cubic yards of waste from these recycled materials. We are very proud of the fact that our students' passion for recycling has become contagious. We hope that these construction companies will continue to recycle once they leave our site; therefore, spreading a much needed constructive new disease called – RECYCLE!

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